

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY


(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 26 SEP 2005

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Applicant's or agent's file reference NMM/P201568WO	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		See Form PCT/PEA/416
International application No. PCT/GB2004/003087	International filing date (day/month/year) 16.07.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 18.07.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65G53/18, B65D88/72			
Applicant LINERTECH LIMITED et al.			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. . .</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (Indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>			
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand  18.02.2005		Date of completion of this report  27.09.2005	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		Authorized Officer  Schneider, M  Telephone No. +31 70 340-	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.  
PCT/GB2004/003087

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**Box No. I Basis of the report**

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1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
  - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements\*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):*

**Description, Pages**

1-9 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-25 as originally filed

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
  - ☐ the claims, Nos.
  - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
  - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
  - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages
  - ☐ the claims, Nos.
  - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
  - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
  - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	5,11-14,16,20,21
	No: Claims	1-4,6-10,15,17-19,22-25
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	11-14
	No: Claims	1-10,15-25
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-25
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

**see separate sheet**

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**Box No. VI Certain documents cited**

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1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and /or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

**see separate sheet**

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document:

D: GB 992 076 A (DEUTSCHE EDELSTAHLWERKE AG) 12 May 1965 (1965-05-12).

- 1.1 The document D discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):  
a container (21) comprising a container liner made of a fluidising mat, which comprises an upper, gas permeable sheet (1) and a lower gas impermeable sheet (11) (cf page 2, lines 78-80), the upper and lower sheets (1, 11) being maintained in spaced apart superimposed relationship by a plurality of spaced-apart load bearing means (2), which define a plurality of passageways that extend in different directions over substantially the full area of the fluidising mat and intersect with each other to form a single continuous chamber between the upper and lower sheets (1,11).

The subject-matter of **claims 1, 22 and 25** lacks therefore novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).

- 1.2 The technical features of **claims 2-4, 6-10, 15, 17-19, 23 and 24** being also known from the document D, the subject-matter of these claims is also not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).
2. **Claims 5, 16, 20 and 21** disclose well-known alternatives or options of fluidising mats and cannot be therefore considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).
3. **Claims 11-14** seem to meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step (Article 33(2),(3) PCT).